

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

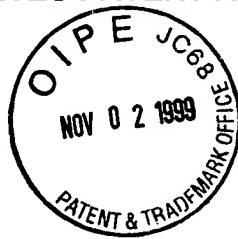
In re Patent Application of

BOWLING et al

Serial No. 09/031,065

Filed: February 26, 1998

For: **REPLACEABLE SHEAR EDGE FOR A STAR-TYPE
FEEDER**



Atty. Ref.: 10-1238

Group: 3725

Examiner: Rosenbaum

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NOV 05 1999
Group 3700

November 2, 1999

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

AMENDMENT AFTER FINAL REJECTION

Responsive to the Official Action dated **September 2, 1999**, please amend the
above identified application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS

Cancel claims 2, 6, 12 through 16, and 21 without prejudice.

Amend claims 1 and 17 as follows:

1. (Amended) A method of treating comminuted cellulosic fibrous material
utilizing a star feeder having a rotor with a plurality of pockets rotatable within a
cylindrical housing with an inlet and an outlet, a clearance between the housing and the
rotor, and a shear edge in the inlet at a downstream portion of the inlet in the direction
of rotation of the pocketed rotor and wherein the shear edge is held in place by readily
removable fasteners and further utilizing a removable protective baffle mounted in the
housing inlet in a position above the shear edge, providing protection for the shear
edge; said method comprising the steps of:

(a) feeding comminuted cellulosic fibrous material into the inlet;